

Partnership's Beaver Advocacy Committee have identified watersheds that could support beaver at a remove from human development. Historically these areas hosted beaver, though they are now beaver-less. The organizations introduced mated pairs of the monogamous animals, tails implanted with tracking devices, and monitored them closely for 60 days. About a third of them didn't stay where the conservationists originally put them, and some died due to predation. But since all of the beaver were reported as nuisances by human neighbors, they still had a better chance in the forest than near people who were free to kill them.

"What we found so far was that the survival rates are such that translocation is a viable option for beaver management," Petrowski says. And so an official beaver policy was born.

The ODFW's relocation guidelines are new, but biologist Penny Harris of the Willamette National Forest's McKenzie Ranger District is already investigating how she can best put them to use. "Our goal is to try and use natural processes like beaver to help retain wetland for longer time during the summer months, especially with climate change," Harris says. "The water is getting shallower and shallower during the summer months."

Harris says that the ODFW has approved four areas in the McKenzie Ranger District that have adequate food, timber and predator protection to provide beaver with new home, and they're examining more beaver-friendly locations in the area.

Restoring ecosystems and supporting endangered species motivates ODFW's

'What we need is more hairdressers involved in wildlife.'

— SHERRI TIPPIE,
BEAVER TRAPPER & HAIRDRESSER

Corrarino to support beaver relocations, though he suggests that landowners who seek only to rid their property of beaver should first consider plausible ways to live alongside the furry little beast. Contraptions that control pond levels and protect trees and culverts can be found online, and Oregonians can also contact the ODFW to talk beaver tactics.

Petrowski says that a member of the Beaver Advocacy Committee usually can dissuade complaining landowners of their distaste for beaver. "A lot of this has to do with giving them nuisance status," he says. Without that label, he thinks people would be more inclined to recognize that beaver draw salmon and have irrigation benefits, as well.

Shooting or relocating beaver may be ineffective to property owners in the long run, Corrarino cautions, because beaver could return anyway. "If it's attractive to beaver," he says, "there's a good chance they'll be back." **ew**

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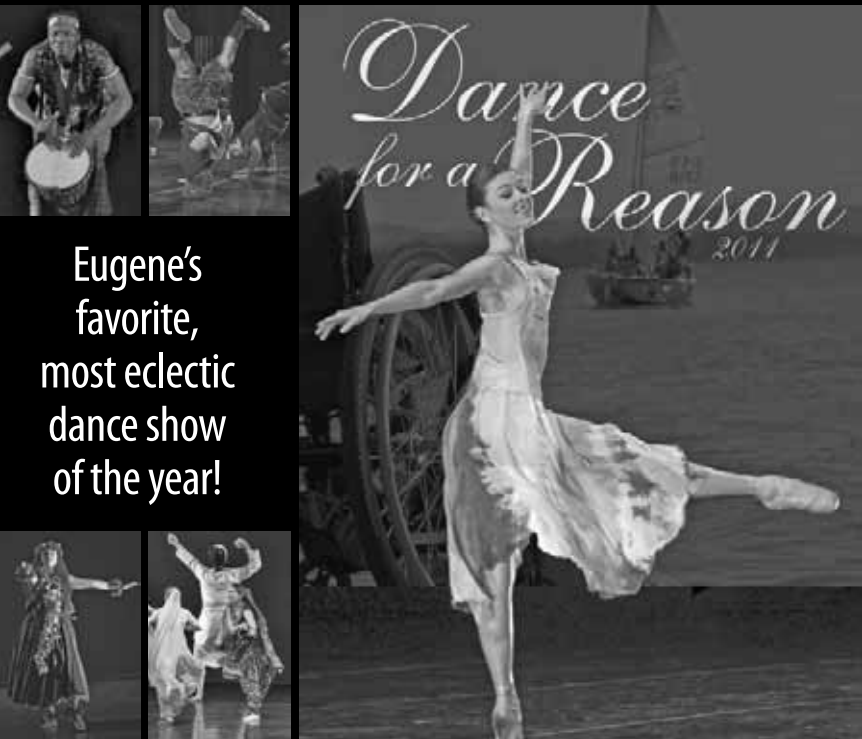
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